

NEGLECTING SOMETHING SO-O-O GREAT

Hebrews 2:1-4
November 26, 2017

INTRODUCTION: Is there a sense of greatness in your mind about your salvation? Or do you neglect it?

Do you respond to the greatness of your salvation? Or do you treat it the way you treat your last will and testament, or the title to your car, or the deed on your house? You signed it once and it is in a file drawer somewhere, but it is not a really great thing in your mind. You rarely think about it. It has no daily effect on you. Basically, you neglect it.

Neglect - not, to gather; to ignore or disregard; to fail to attend to properly; to leave undone; lack of proper care.

These four verses were written to believers to admonish (put in mind) them to take their wonderful salvation ("**so great salvation**") provided by the heavenly Father in the person of the Lord Jesus and make it everything it can possibly be.

"Therefore" - in verse 1 is a reminder of how great a Savior we have.

- Heir of all things and the Creator of the world

- He is the radiance of the glory of God - the exact

representation of the divine nature

- The sustainer of the universe and purifier from sin
- The One Who sits at the right hand of majesty on high
- He is worshipped by angels
- The Lord of Creation
- Unchangeable
- Everlasting God (2-12)

These verses serve as a warning to remember the superiority of Christ. **Please note:** This is speaking of **neglecting** not **rejecting**.

QUESTION: How many homes/marriages have been ruined by **NEGLECT?**

Neglect leads to drifting, and drifting leads to defying (**Heb. 12:14-29**). There is always progression. When this occurs, **Heb. 12:6-11** teaches that as His children, He will chasten in order to correct.

I. A QUESTION THAT DESERVES DISCUSSION 3-4

Since the danger here is that of **neglecting**, not **rejecting**, the writer is not encouraging sinners to become Christians, rather, he is encouraging Christians to pay close attention to the **“great”** salvation they have received from the Lord.

NOTE: **v1** uses **“we”** and **“us”**

.3 “How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation”

My salvation is at the very center of who I am and it literally is to affect every area of my life.

In these 4 verses, moving from that center (salvation), we can move outward to the cautions and encouragements that God has for us.

CAUTIOUS LIGHTS WITH SIGN:

Don't fail to receive and enjoy everything that salvation includes; we must not miss the **greatness** of our salvation.

“Neglect” – (Matthew 22:5) “made light of it,”
not to care.

How sad when believers begin not to care about their salvation.

George W. Truett, 47 years pastor of FBC Dallas said, *“Our whole world is a battlefield covered with wrecks occasioned by neglect.”*

V3 refers to our salvation as being **“so great.”** This is a reminder that it is unequalled/unparalleled.

A. Where Did This Great Salvation Originate? 3

1. Message Commenced With the Savior.

“first began to be spoken by the Lord”

2. Message Continued With The Saints.

“confirmed to us by those who heard Him”

EXAMPLES:

Peter: cursing fisherman became great gospel preacher.

John: **“son of thunder”** became apostle of love. Some in our own church family.

3. Confirmed by the Sovereign.

“God also bearing witness”

Jesus proved He was God in Nazareth,
according to **Mark 6:1-6**.

B. WHAT IS THIS GREAT SALVATION'S OUTCOME 4

4 WORDS:

1. Cost

Salvation is free, but not cheap.

“Jesus Paid It All”

2. Completeness

Deals with my sin, and at the same time
forgives the sinner.

3. Circumference

Salvation dealt with my past sin, present,
and future sins.

4. Change

Salvation changed my life.

3-FOLD WITNESS:

1. To Convince The Jews

Matthew 12:38

“Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, ”Teacher, we want to see a sign from You.”

1 Corinthians 1:22

“For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom;”

John 10:38

“but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him.”

2. To Convince The Gentiles

“various miracles” – manifold powers; here it refers to the miracles that witnessed to the word and gave confirmation that it was true.

3. To Confirm The Message To The Christians

“gifts of the Holy Spirit”

Romans 8:16

“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,”

II. A STATEMENT THAT DESERVES DISCLOSURE 2-3a

disclosure - bring into view

deliberation – study

Writer is giving a comparison between the Old Testament Law and the New Testament Grace.

Under the Old Testament the Law given by the mediation of angels, brought penalty for every transgression and disobedience.

One may say, **“But now we are under grace.”**
Yes, but we also have more light.

A. Sins Of Commission

“transgression” – stepped over the line; “if you break my law, it will break you.”

Speaks of active sin. Willful act;
intentionally doing something we know to
be wrong.

B. Sins Of Omission

“disobedience” – passive sin; is the sin of
not doing what you ought to do. One who
shuts his ears to the commands, warnings,
and initiations of God.

III. AN ANSWER THAT DESERVES DEFINING 1

“drift” – slip

John 7:38

**“He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has
said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living
water.”**

Really means to **flow** like a river. Verb is
passive. Picture is not of a Christian drifting; it
is a picture of a Christian being stationary and
a river flowing or passing by.

Translates – **“lest at any time we should be
flowed by”**

God's great (so) salvation is like a mighty flowing river. A Christian can get his feet wet in that river, or he can go beyond the shallow water to the depths of this salvation to the fullness of it.

Writer is saying, *"Don't miss out on the abundance of your salvation. Don't let it slip by you. Pay careful attention."*

ILLUSTRATE: Pool-you encourage others to come in. **"I can't, it's too cold, too deep."**

"drift" – slipping past; something which carelessly has been allowed to slip away. It is a word that speaks of a ring slipping off a finger.

ILLUSTRATE: Janet lost her wedding ring, but I didn't lose her. Deanna dropped it in the air conditioning vent at Lavonia parsonage. The preciousness of the ring was missed.

A. Real Problem

Don't take lightly the great salvation God has given you.

It is easy to drift with the current, but it is difficult to return against the stream.

We are **not** dealing with an ignorant believer or a rebellious believer, but a **careless** believer.

Herschel Hobbs said, *“The great river of God’s will is everflowing on to bigger and more glorious purposes. Some individuals and churches are content to stand like children and splash in the shallow waters, while the great plan of God flows by them.”*

B. Responsibility

“we must give the more careful attention” – more earnest heed; apply what you have heard about salvation; to apply the mind tenaciously.

Dr. Warren Wiersbe tells about the man with a hearing problem in Leeds, England who went to the doctor. He already had a hearing aid. When the doctor removed the aid, his hearing immediately improved. He had been wearing it in the wrong ear for twenty years.

One pastor was asked if he had a deaf ministry in his church. He replied, *“Sometimes I think the whole church is deaf!”* We are called to listen better to the

truth of the gospel. Dr. Griffith Thomas said, “*With familiarity truths tend to lose their influence, and the result is involuntary gradual backsliding.*”

It is possible to listen, but not really hear. Hebrews is a call to hear.

The next time you sing, *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*, recall that the composer, Robert Robinson, was converted under the mighty preaching of George Whitefield, but that later he drifted from the Lord. He had been greatly used as a pastor, but neglect of spiritual things led him astray. In an attempt to find peace, he began to travel. During one of his journeys, he met a young woman who was evidently very spiritually minded.

“*What do you think of this hymn I have been reading?*” she asked Robinson, handing him the book. *It was his own hymn!* He tried to avoid her question but it was hopeless, for the Lord was speaking to him. Finally, he broke down and confessed who he was and how he had been living away from the Lord.

“*But these ‘streams of mercy’ are still flowing,*” the woman assured him; and

through her encouragement, Robinson was restored to fellowship with the Lord.

CONCLUSION: Our salvation is a “great salvation,” purchased at a great price. It brings with it great promises and blessings, and it leads to a great inheritance in glory.

Hebrews 6:19

“This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil,”